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Summary record of the 40th meeting
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President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) ..... (Czechia)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice (E/2016/30/Add.1-E/CN.15/2016/13/Add.1, E/2017/74 and E/2017/30-E/CN.15/2017/13)

(d) Narcotic drugs (E/2016/28/Add.1-E/CN.7/2016/16/Add.1, E/2017/28-E/CN.7/2017/11; E/INCB/2016/1 and E/INCB/2016/4)

1. **Mr. Kitano** (Japan), Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, gave a briefing on the work of the twenty-sixth regular session of the Commission, the report of which was contained in document E/2017/30-E/CN.15/2017/13. The Commission dealt with a wide range of issues in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, including terrorism, urban crime, trafficking in persons, wildlife crime, trafficking of cultural property, corruption and violence against women. The Commission was a policymaking body designed to deal with the negative aspects of globalization.

2. At its twenty-sixth session, the Commission had adopted nine resolutions and four decisions and engaged in a variety of policy discussions. Over 1,000 participants had attended the session, which had also comprised 93 side events (including one organized with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs) and 10 exhibitions.

3. Three draft resolutions had been recommended for approval by the Economic and Social Council and subsequent adoption by the General Assembly. The first dealt with the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which took place every five years and would next be held in Japan in 2020. The overall theme would be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law: Towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda" and was designed to examine the practical implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice policies in the context of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Four agenda items, each with a related workshop topic, had been selected: crime prevention; criminal justice; how to promote the rule of law and foster a culture of lawfulness; and international cooperation and technical assistance, especially to prevent terrorism and new and emerging forms of crime.

4. The second resolution in that category concerned United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and encouraged Member States to improve imprisonment conditions. The third resolution concerned technical assistance for counter-terrorism and called on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide assistance for such efforts.

5. Two resolutions had been recommended by the Commission for approval by the Economic and Social Council, addressing the issues of combatting trafficking in persons and finding alternatives to imprisonment. Finally, three decisions had been adopted by the Commission which required no further action, one of which was the report of the twenty-sixth session.

6. The work of the Commission was linked to many of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those dealing with peace and institutions, gender equality, sustainable cities and partnerships. The Commission had a three-dimensional approach to eradicating poverty that included addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and eradicating violence against women and children; avoiding the loss of valuable resources, especially through trafficking in persons and wildlife crime; and breaking vicious cycles. Violence was strongly related to inequality, just as terrorism was closely linked to poverty. In order to eradicate poverty, the vicious cycle must be broken.

7. **Ms. Angell-Hansen** (Norway), Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, gave a briefing on the recent work of the Commission and presented the report of its sixtieth session, contained in document E/2017/28-E/CN.7/2017/11. Accompanying her remarks with a digital slide presentation, she said that new psychoactive substances and the darknet were new challenges being faced in modern times. Attended by more than 1,750 people and comprising more than 100 side events and an address by the Secretary-General, the session had been divided into two main parts. The operational part related mainly to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The normative part had focused on the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome

document of the special session. The normative part had also concerned itself with recommendations made by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and matters relating to the Council. During the session, the Commission had discussed the implementation of international drug control treaties, including changes to the scope and control of substances. Member States had scheduled 12 new substances, ten among them on the basis of recommendations made by the World Health Organization (WHO). The outcome of those recommendations, as well as the fact that the former Director General of WHO had addressed the session, demonstrated the importance of working together to address the issues. The other two newly scheduled substances were precursors to fentanyl, and had been recommended by the International Narcotics Control Board and the delegation of the United States of America, a country where 100 people died from narcotic drugs every day.

8. The Commission had recommended the approval of one draft resolution by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly, as well as four draft decisions for adoption by the Council. Nine resolutions in total, addressing a wide range of subject matter, had been adopted by the Commission. Resolution 60/1, which concerned the preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission in 2019, was the result of several months of negotiations. The outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly contained 100 operational recommendations and was very important for the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. In autumn 2017 the Commission would work together with several of its subsidiary bodies and international organizations across all seven thematic areas of the document. The Commission had submitted its contributions to the President of the Council for consideration at the high-level segment of its 2016 session, and detailed information about those contributions could be consulted on the website of the Commission. The work of the Commission was integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as several of the Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to poverty, health, inequality, partnerships and access to justice, and she looked forward to future cooperation between the Commission and the Council.

9. **Mr. Sumyai** (President, International Narcotics Control Board), accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, introduced the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2016 as contained in document E/INCB/2016/1. The Board worked with Governments to improve implementation of convention provisions to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing diversion, illicit cultivation and production, trafficking, and abuse.

10. The report, complemented by the 2016 Precursors Report as contained in document E/INCB/2016/4, presented the Board's findings and recommendations for action by the international community. The two technical publications also provided details on estimates of the annual legitimate requirements of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for each country, as well as data on the licit production, manufacture, trade and consumption of drugs worldwide.

11. In light of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment, the annual report contained a chapter on women and drugs, which called on Governments to design and implement gender-sensitive drug policies. Although women represented one-third of global drug users, they constituted only one-fifth of drug treatment recipients. There had been a disproportionate increase in drug overdoses among women. The systemic, structural, social, cultural and personal barriers preventing women from accessing healthcare must be addressed and treatment programmes and facilities must be tailored to the specific needs of women. Women were increasingly being arrested for drug-related offences, which had a significant impact on their families and children. The report reminded policymakers and legislators of the importance of protecting the rights of women who used drugs or had committed drug-related offences, and reminded all States of the possibility of utilizing the relevant provisions of the conventions, which, for minor offenses, allowed for alternatives to conviction or punishment, such as treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration.

12. The 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem had marked a turning point with regard to the prominence accorded to the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, and the recognition that the availability of medicines in many countries remained low to non-existent. The Board was implementing the operational recommendations on ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, including through its Learning project which comprised regional training seminars, awareness-raising workshops and e-learning modules. Increased financial support would be essential to continue with such capacity-building activities to strengthen drug control administrations.

13. The Board was also improving availability through its International Import and Export Authorization System, which facilitated and expedited the secure electronic exchange of import and export authorizations between Governments. The system also safeguarded against excess imports or exports, thereby preventing diversion. Countries were encouraged to join the system, provided free of charge, and to ensure that the resources necessary for its ongoing implementation were made available.

14. Following the recommendation by the special session of the General Assembly that Member States should address issues related to the affordability of controlled medicines, several countries had begun to produce morphine nationally, to import morphine powder, and/or to provide morphine free of charge to patients. Efforts to improve availability must be balanced by efforts to prevent and address overconsumption, which had created an overdose crisis in some regions of the world. A careful balance must be achieved between the availability of controlled substances to treat or manage various health conditions and symptoms such as pain, and the potential negative effects that the same substances could cause if taken for non-medical purposes.

15. The effectiveness of the international drug control system depended upon the fulfilment by Governments of their treaty obligations to accurately report to the Board in a timely manner. While many Governments unfortunately failed to comply with that obligation, they were nonetheless urged to provide data to the Board as required by the conventions and pursuant to the related resolutions of the Council and the Commission. Governments were likewise encouraged to ensure that competent national authorities were adequately trained.

16. Supply reduction also remained essential; the control of precursors was a means to prevent serious illicit activity. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) required the promotion of international cooperation to prevent chemicals from being diverted for the illicit manufacture of substances of abuse. In that regard, the Board provided tools that enabled Governments to exchange information in real time in order to enhance control over precursor chemicals. The increasing use of non-scheduled precursors in the illicit manufacture of drugs required modern, flexible approaches and international cooperation. The Board had issued guidelines to assist Governments in establishing partnerships with the private sector to control precursor chemicals and to help counter the emergence of "designer precursors".

17. Although not under international control, new psychoactive substances posed a growing threat to health and welfare worldwide. The Board was working with national authorities to facilitate information sharing on incidents involving those substances.

18. As part of its regional analysis on the world drug situation, the Board had reiterated its grave concern about the further deteriorating drug control and security situation in Afghanistan, which was closely linked to high levels of opium poppy and cannabis cultivation and the emerging illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. It had also expressed concern about the extensive problem of drug abuse and dependence in the country and the dire need for adequate prevention and treatment services. The Board remained in close dialogue with the Government of Afghanistan and had conducted a mission there in 2016. It called upon partner Governments and the international community to support counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan in the spirit of common and shared responsibility, as the success of drug control efforts in Afghanistan was intrinsically linked to broader developmental and criminal justice challenges being adequately addressed. Action against drugs was an essential component of sustainable development.

19. States Parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) had made the decision to limit exclusively to medical and scientific purposes the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution of, trade in, use and possession of drugs. However, recent developments in a number of countries were not in conformity with the treaties, in particular developments concerning the use of cannabis for non-medical purposes. States Parties were reminded that they had willingly decided to subject cannabis to the highest levels of control under the treaties, in recognition of the public health risks associated with its abuse. States parties must determine how to respond to developments in some States in which the non-medical use of cannabis had been or was being legalized and regulated, in clear contravention of the conventions.

20. It was a misconception that drug control conventions were overly punitive; they were founded upon respect for human rights, a balanced approach, and the principle of proportionality. The conventions did not require the imprisonment of people who used drugs or who committed minor drug-related offences; in fact, they provided States with the flexibility to apply alternative measures. However, those measures,

including treatment and rehabilitation, remained underutilized by many States. The Board encouraged States that retained capital punishment to consider the abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offences. It also condemned the extrajudicial targeting of people suspected of illicit drug-related activity, as a breach of the drug control conventions and of human rights more broadly. All Governments concerned must put an immediate stop to such actions.

21. For the operation of drug consumption rooms to be consistent with the conventions, the ultimate objective of such facilities must be to reduce the adverse consequences of drug abuse through treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration measures without condoning or increasing abuse or encouraging drug trafficking. Drug consumption rooms must not be a substitute for demand reduction programmes, particularly prevention and treatment.

22. **Mr. Musikhin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation welcomed the Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1 on preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission, which would contain a ministerial segment open to all Member States and interested stakeholders to assess the implementation of State commitments to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, with a particular focus on the 2019 target date that had been set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

23. The Political Declaration, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the United Nations General Assembly were all mutually reinforcing and should guide the work of the Commission. It was necessary to focus the current work of the Commission on the evaluation of the progress made in achieving the specific goals and targets of the Political Declaration, including through the operational recommendations adopted by the special session of the General Assembly.

24. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that it was crucial for the Economic and Social Council to help generate synergies with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Greater coherence must be achieved within the United Nations system on issues addressed by both bodies so that efforts at the national, regional and global levels could be complementary.

25. It was essential to mainstream the gender perspective in all multilateral forums, as crime prevention programmes that fostered a culture of lawfulness were more effective when they took into account gender-specific issues. His delegation recognized the collaboration of all those who had contributed to the adoption of Commission resolution 26/3 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, an initiative launched by his country and Australia.

26. The theme selected for the upcoming United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders highlighted the linkages between crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The adoption of Commission resolution 22/7 on strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime was an important step forward in that regard. Recent events had only increased the relevancy of sharing information on national legislation, best practices, technical assistance and international cooperation on the matter.

27. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs must implement the operational recommendations of the special session of the General Assembly with a view to preparations for the high-level meeting in 2019 and to reflect the changing international paradigm on drugs. It was necessary for the Commission to work in a coordinated and coherent manner with all United Nations entities, promoting greater cooperation between the health, education and criminal justice sectors. It was imperative for the Commission to continue evaluating the implementation of the operational recommendations. Nonetheless, his delegation regretted the resistance of certain Member States to the adoption of a more ambitious course of action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. All member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime were urged to provide further support to the International Narcotics Control Board.

28. The lack of geographic diversity and gender equality within the staff of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at all levels remained a matter of concern. The Office was urged to aim for gender equality and equitable geographical distribution, especially at the director level. His delegation called for the support of the Economic and Social Council to

evaluate the programmes and projects undertaken by the Office on Drugs and Crime.

29. Mexico would continue to work with other States, regional and international entities and the specialized agencies of the United Nations to improve the availability and quality of statistics on drugs. In that regard, it highlighted the adoption of the international classification of crimes for statistical purposes and supported further coordination with the United Nations Statistical Commission.

30. **Mr. Franco** (United States of America) said that the edited text of paragraph 12 of draft resolution III contained in the report did not convey the same meaning as what had been agreed by the Member States. His delegation proposed either reverting to the originally agreed wording "... to plan, incite, recruit, fund or commit terrorist attacks ..." or modifying the sentence to read "... to plan, incite, recruit for, fund or commit terrorist attacks ...".

31. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that the proposed change would be incorporated into the draft resolution.

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-fifth session

32. **The President** invited the Council to take action, under sub-item (c), on the draft decision contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-fifth session (E/2016/30/Add.1-E/CN.15/2016/13/Add.1).

33. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-sixth session (E/2017/30-E/CN.15/2017/13)

34. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Draft resolution II: Promoting the practical application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)
Draft resolution III: Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism

35. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

36. *Draft resolution III was adopted as orally revised.*

Section B

Draft resolution I: Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Draft resolution II: Promoting and encouraging the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment as part of comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies

37. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

Section C

Draft decision I: Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Draft decision II: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-sixth session and provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh session Draft decision III: Appointment of two members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

38. *Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted.*

Oral decision

39. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Board of Trustees on major activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/2017/74).

40. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-ninth session

41. **The President** invited the Council to take action, under sub-item (d), on the draft decision contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-ninth session (E/2016/28/Add.1-E/CN.7/2016/16/Add.1).

42. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixtieth session (E/2017/28-E/CN.7/2017/11)

43. **The President** invited the Council to take action, also under sub-item (d), on the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report, with the exception of draft decision II in section B, which the Council had just adopted under section C of document E/2017/30-E/CN.15/2017/13 ("Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime").

44. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council), delivering a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, said that should draft decision I be adopted, under the terms of paragraph 13 of the annex to draft decision I, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide enhanced technical and substantive support to the Commission in conducting the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 and in preparing for the sixty-second session of the Commission, to be held in 2019.

45. With regard to paragraph 13 of the annex to the draft decision, the secretariat had reviewed the workload requirements and concluded that the requirements of enhanced technical and substantive support to the Commission could not be absorbed within existing capacity. It therefore estimated that additional regular budget resources in the amount of $275,000, inclusive of staff assessment, would be required as a one-time non-recurrent cost under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, and section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019. The resources would provide for 24 months of temporary assistance at the P-3 level to deliver technical and substantive support to the Commission in the areas of (i) the holding of intersessional meetings of the Commission; (ii) the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem; (iii) the use of tools to enhance remote participation; (iv) the preparations for the ministerial segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission; and (v) the work of the Commission on the global follow-up and support to the thematic review of progress in respect of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

46. In accordance with established procedures, the additional requirements for the biennium 2018-2019 would be considered in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational and substantive sessions of 2017.

Section A

Draft resolution: Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments on alternative development and regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy addressing socioeconomic issues

47. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision I: Preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2019

Draft decision III: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixtieth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-first session

Draft decision IV: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

48. *Draft decisions I, III and IV were adopted.*

Oral decision

49. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the 2016 report of the International Narcotics Control Board on precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (E/INCB/2017/4).

50. *It was so decided.*

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*continued*) (E/2017/47 and E/2017/L.13)

51. **Ms. O'Hara** (Deputy Director, New York Liaison Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) presented an oral report on behalf of UNHCR on coordination aspects of UNHCR activities in partnership with Member States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR. Over the

previous year the number of people displaced by conflict, war and persecution had reached 65.6 million, including refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum-seekers awaiting decisions on their applications. The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and the crisis in South Sudan were two of the largest sources of refugees. Given that so many people were displaced for long periods of time due to protracted and recurrent conflicts, it was necessary to provide more than just short-term responses. Partnerships and coordination with a broad range of actors, including, most crucially, those States hosting refugees, was fundamental to expanding and diversifying the solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, address the underlying causes of displacement, and prevent and solve problems of statelessness.

52. In 2016, several events had influenced the coordination of UNHCR with its partners, including the World Humanitarian Summit, the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing, and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, among others. The adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, of which the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework was an integral and meaningful part, had also been a milestone for global solidarity and the protection of refugees.

53. In the area of the humanitarian-development nexus, UNHCR had strengthened its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. UNHCR had also worked with the World Bank in the context of its International Development Association for fragile and conflict- and violence-afflicted States, for the benefit of refugee-affected countries. UNHCR also participated in the Human Rights Working Group of the United Nations Development Group, which it co-chaired with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Office was heavily engaged in the follow-up to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review for 2017-2020.

54. UNHCR had continued to implement the Inter-Agency Standing Committee transformative agenda by way of the Global Protection, Shelter, and Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters. It had also strengthened cooperation with United Nations partners such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration and the World Health Organization, covering the areas of improved cash-based assistance, joint vulnerability assessments, coordination in emergency situations, joint planning and advocacy, and the health of refugees and migrants.

55. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also were vital partners in the work of UNHCR, and were consulted in policy development and implementation. The UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs in Geneva remained the main forum for dialogue, networking and joint advocacy, with 313 organizations participating in its most recent session in June 2017. The Enhanced Framework for Implementing with Partners was being rolled out, and, as part of the follow-up to the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR were seeking to simplify and harmonize project agreements, reporting formats and audit requirements.

56. UNHCR was also improving its coordination with the private sector to enable innovation and entrepreneurship to benefit refugees and other persons of concern. For instance, UNHCR was working with information and communication technology companies to enhance access and connectivity to the Internet, thus facilitating distance-learning and training programmes.

57. The High Commissioner for Refugees had placed great emphasis on strengthening partnerships, as was outlined in UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2017-2021. Partnerships and coordination were essential in order to protect refugees and seek solutions to their plight.

Draft decision E/2017/L.13: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

58. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

59. *Draft decision E/2017/L.13 was adopted.*

(f) Human rights (A/72/55; E/2017/22-E/C.12/2016/3 and E/2017/70)

60. **Mr. Mokhiber** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Director, New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that the 2030 Agenda was explicitly anchored in human rights and offered a comprehensive vision of sustainable development. Introducing the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on economic, social and cultural rights (E/2017/70), he said that Member States had committed themselves to implementing the Agenda in accordance with their obligations under international law, including human rights law. Attention must be paid, in particular, to the requirements of economic, social and cultural rights. Admittedly, implementation placed demands on public

budgets, which posed a special challenge to the least developed countries and countries affected by conflict, disaster and humanitarian crisis. However, as a matter of law, States could not invoke a lack of resources to justify non-compliance with human rights treaties they had ratified. Rather, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights required each State party to take steps to the fullest extent of its available resources to realize, progressively and in full, the rights recognized by the Covenant by all appropriate means. States must therefore use resources efficiently and make every effort to raise revenues necessary for the realization of those rights, including preserving and expanding fiscal space, introducing more equitable tax policies, reviewing the impact of public expenditures, reducing inefficiencies and combating corruption and tax evasion.

61. Policy choices made by States should prioritize the implementation of all human rights and respect the core principles of non-discrimination, transparency, participation and accountability. Expanding resources required effective institutions, appropriate laws, good governance reforms, a strong and engaged civil society, and a free and independent media with full access to information. Furthermore, Governments must do all they could to mobilize necessary resources, not only domestically but also through international cooperation. Delivering on commitments for international cooperation under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was critical to provide low-income countries with more predictable access to additional resources.

62. International cooperation was also crucial to combating tax evasion and illicit financial flows at the global level. The continued existence of tax havens was an obstacle to mobilizing sufficient resources for ensuring compliance in the area of human rights.

63. Lastly, the report highlighted some key elements crucial to ensuring that States delivered on their obligations and commitments related to human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, including a transparent public decision-making process, full access to information, and meaningful public participation, particularly by those most affected by policies. In order to achieve those aims, it was necessary to strengthen the capacities of public officials, civil society, national human rights institutions and others to analyse and monitor public budgets from a human-rights perspective.

64. Introducing the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifty-seventh, fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions (E/2017/22-E/C.12/2016/3), he said that the additional meeting time granted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/268 had allowed the Committee to consider a larger number of State party reports in 2016 and reduce its backlog. The Committee had continued its consideration of individual communications, and adopted guidance on third-party interventions during examination. The consideration of individual cases helped to clarify the scope of application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and offered guidance with regard to appropriate remedies for victims. The Committee had adopted general comments Nos. 22 and 23 as well as two substantive statements, and encouraged States parties to refer to them when implementing the Covenant. Finally, the joint meeting with the Human Rights Committee in June 2016 had highlighted the interconnected work of the two Committees and underscored the indivisibility of human rights.

65. Turning to the report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/72/55), he said that the additional meeting time that had been granted had enabled the Committee to consider 28 State party initial reports, register eight communications, adopt five views on individual complaints, and finalize its first inquiry under the Optional Protocol. The Committee had held a day of general discussion on the right to inclusive education and adopted a general comment on the topic; it had also held broad consultations and subsequently adopted a general comment on article 6 of the Convention. The Committee had compiled its recommendations to States parties under article 14 into guidelines, which were included as an annex to the report of the Committee. It had adopted guidelines on periodic reporting, and it was noteworthy that many States parties had accepted the simplified reporting procedure. All of the States parties whose reports were scheduled for consideration had participated in their dialogues with the Committee in Geneva. The Committee had called on States parties to fully include persons with disabilities in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and called for data to be disaggregated on the basis of disability.

66. The Committee welcomed the adoption of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action at the World Humanitarian Summit, and the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). Though it supported the efforts of the United Nations to promote accessibility across the Organization, the Committee recommended that it should abandon the medical approach to

assessing disability in relation to travel procedures, promote the employment of persons with disabilities, and increase the availability of easy-read and plain-text documentation formats, so as to ensure the broader participation of persons with disabilities. Lastly, the Committee noted with concern that the 2016 election of members of the Committee had resulted in a serious gender imbalance with only one female member left. It called on States parties to restore gender parity and equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the Committee.

Oral decision

67. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on economic, social and cultural rights (E/2017/70), the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fifty-seventh, fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions (E/2017/22-E/C.12/2016/3), and the report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/72/55).

68. *It was so decided.*

(g) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2017/43-E/C.19/2017/11)

69. **Ms. Aboubakrine** (Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues), introducing the report of the Permanent Forum on its sixteenth session (E/2017/43-E/C.19/2017/11), said that indigenous peoples were gaining visibility and importance across the United Nations system, partly owing to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which included indigenous peoples more than previous frameworks. Indigenous peoples had a valuable contribution to make to a sustainable world for all; much could be learned from their traditional livelihoods and ways of living in harmony with nature. However, they continued to face discrimination and to be stereotyped as backward and underdeveloped. They also frequently remained trapped in structural poverty due to a denial of their basic human rights, marginalization and poor access to basic services. It was necessary to ensure that indigenous peoples' rights were recognized, protected and promoted.

70. The main theme of the sixteenth session, which had been attended by a large number of delegates from Member States, over 1,000 indigenous representatives, as well as representatives of NGOs and United Nations entities, was the "Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". The Forum had noted progress in implementation of the Declaration since its adoption in 2007, including the development of constitutional and legal frameworks that recognized indigenous peoples and targeted policies and programmes. However, formal recognition of indigenous peoples' rights did not always translate into practice, and discriminatory laws and regulations that violated their rights continued to exist. Their lands and resources continued to be grabbed at an alarming rate, and threats and violence against indigenous peoples who defended their territories, rights and livelihoods were on the rise.

71. In its discussion on the follow-up to the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the Forum had welcomed the progress made on the implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples, called for the United Nations system to work coherently at the national level to support Member States in their implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and discussed the consultation process, led by the President of the General Assembly, concerning the ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. Member States should open the doors of the United Nations to indigenous peoples' representative institutions, since indigenous peoples had a great deal to offer to the United Nations and increased dialogue could only be for the better.

72. The forum had also discussed the situation of indigenous human rights defenders, the implications of the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples and the empowerment of indigenous women and youth. The accounts of human rights violations that indigenous human rights defenders were subjected to were of particular concern. Many of the cases related to indigenous peoples' concerns about natural resource extraction and infrastructure projects in their territories. Many individuals had been subjected to violent attacks, threats, enforced disappearances, illegal surveillance, travel bans, blackmail and sexual harassment. Criminalization of the activities of human rights defenders was used to silence protesters and dissuade others from protesting. Alarmingly, recent years had seen a rise in killings of human rights defenders.

73. Indigenous people must participate in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in evaluating progress. Disaggregated data on indigenous peoples was essential for evaluating the impact of the Sustainable Development Goals on their communities.

As a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum had contributed a substantive report (E/C.19/2017/2) to the upcoming high-level political forum on sustainable development, in which it made recommendations regarding inclusion of indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda.

74. The Forum had made a number of recommendations on the empowerment of indigenous women and youth. It continued the practice of holding closed dialogue meetings with Member States, indigenous peoples' organisations and United Nations agencies. It was also increasing its cooperation and coordination with other bodies of the Economic and Social Council. It had worked with the Commission on the Status of Women on the empowerment of indigenous women, a topic which the Commission had considered as an emerging theme at its sixty-first session. Its discussions with the Statistical Commission had drawn attention to the importance of developing sound methodologies for the identification of indigenous peoples in censuses, household surveys and statistics related to the 2030 Agenda.

75. The draft decisions submitted to the Council and the recommendations to the United Nations system contained in the report (E/2017/43-E/C.19/2017/11) were expected to contribute to the achievement of the broad mandate of the Forum.

76. **Mr. Franco** (United States of America) said that his delegation had been consulting with indigenous peoples' representatives in the United States on the follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Whether or not the process to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them resulted in a new status for indigenous peoples' institutions at the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council should remain a space where indigenous peoples could express their views on issues that mattered to them. His Government would be in contact with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to follow up on the recommendations she had made following her 2017 visit to the United States.

77. His Government remained committed to the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and would be reluctant to accept a system of participation that undermined those principles or went below the standards of the World Conference outcome document. When seeking ways for indigenous peoples to participate at the United Nations, it was important to bear in mind that indigenous identity was not exclusively determined by European colonization.

78. Disaggregated data should be gathered to analyse the impact of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals on indigenous persons. United States statistical policy specifically encouraged the collection of detailed data on American Indian and Alaska Native persons who maintained tribal affiliation or community attachment, as long as confidentiality standards and data quality were not compromised. His Government was committed to providing disaggregated statistics in relation to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, in accordance with the forthcoming guidance.

79. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were working with the CDC Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee and the Indian Health Service to prevent the spread of HIV in indigenous populations, specifically by targeting those at greatest risk of contracting HIV, including young gay and bisexual indigenous men.

80. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 recognized tribes' inherent power to exercise special criminal jurisdiction over Indian and non-Indian offenders who committed acts of domestic violence or dating violence, or who violated a protection order in Indian country. In October 2016, his Government had hosted the Governments of Canada and Mexico with a view to starting a North American Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls to address the high rates of domestic and sexual violence in indigenous communities.

81. The use of native languages built identity and encouraged communities to move toward social unity and self-sufficiency. National efforts to preserve and promote indigenous languages included adoption of the Native American Languages Act of 1990, which provided for the revitalization of Native American languages through immersion and restoration programmes. In September 2017, the Department of Education would make between three and seven grants to support schools' use of Native American and Alaska Native languages as primary languages of instruction, under the new Native American Language programme.

82. **Mr. de la Mora Salcedo** (Observer for Mexico), speaking also on behalf of Guatemala, said that since the presentation of the previous report of the Forum, there had been a noteworthy improvement in the dialogue and cooperation between the independent experts and the Member States. The voices of indigenous people enriched the work of the United Nations. His Government and the Government of

Guatemala reaffirmed their support for the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

83. With regard to the participation of indigenous peoples in relevant United Nations meetings, the modalities of which were currently being negotiated in the General Assembly, he suggested the following. There should be a special category for representatives of indigenous peoples, since they were not NGOs; their participation should be at least on an equal footing with that of the NGOs in consultative status with the Council; there should be a space on the agenda of the Council for indigenous issues; and they should be able to participate effectively, with representation from all of the regions of the world. The ongoing negotiations in the General Assembly represented a first step towards such participation. All Member States were encouraged to reaffirm the commitments they had made in the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to ensure spaces for the indigenous peoples of the world.

84. **Mr. Simpson** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada, said that the commitment to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples in the United Nations was not new. At the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 participants had committed to consider ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, and General Assembly resolution 70/232 of 2016 set out a clear mandate for the adoption of a resolution concerning the modalities of their participation by the end of the current session of the General Assembly. The Governments of Australia and Canada remained steadfastly committed to achieving that outcome by the agreed deadline.

85. It was regrettable that Member States had moved away from consideration of enhanced participation in the General Assembly, although the ongoing consideration of enhanced participation in the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council was welcome. As discussions progressed, it was important to ensure that the United Nations did give consideration to indigenous peoples' broader participation, including in the General Assembly. Both Governments would continue to work with fellow Member States to enhance indigenous peoples' participation in a manner that did not reduce their existing opportunities for participation at the United Nations, including in the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues and the Human Rights Council.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on its sixteenth session (E/2017/43-E/C.19/2017/11)

86. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Draft decision I: International expert group meeting on the theme "Sustainable development in territories of indigenous peoples"

Draft decision II: Venue and dates for the seventeenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Draft decision III: Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda for its seventeenth session

87. *Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted.*

(h) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

88. **The President** recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/220, had decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, and the Economic and Social Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and in accordance with their respective roles under the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 50/227, as well as the Human Rights Council, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental process for the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. No advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 19 (h).

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

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Third coordination and management meeting

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 6 July 2017, at 3 p.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President) ..... (Czechia)

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(m) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

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17-11360 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (A/72/83-E/2017/60; E/2017/33; E/2017/L.25)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development

1. **Ms. 'Utoikamanu** (Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (A/72/83-E/2017/60), said that it provided an assessment of the situation of the least developed countries in relation to the priorities set out in the Programme of Action and contained an overview of progress made in critical areas. It confirmed that progress had been made thanks to the efforts of those countries themselves, with the support of development partners, but that they were still far short of the internationally-agreed development goals.

2. Not all countries had shared in the huge socioeconomic progress seen worldwide over the past few decades. The least developed countries remained the most vulnerable segment of the international community and the gap between them and other countries was widening. The average growth rate of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the least developed countries was estimated to have increased to 4.5 per cent in 2016 from 3.8 per cent in 2015, which was well below the 7 per cent target. Recent estimates by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for 2017 had been revised downwards to 5.2 per cent and the average growth prediction for those countries for 2018 was 5.5 per cent. Their poor economic performance was partly due to the disproportionate impact of natural disasters, conflicts and economic shocks, and gave added urgency to the need to mobilize resources in support of their economic diversification, resilience-building and structural transformation. No progress was being made in building productive capacity in those countries and their share of manufacturing had increased only marginally, while their investment level had declined from 24.9 per cent of GDP in 2014 to 23.5 per cent in 2015. One positive development was the increase in the percentage of the population with access to electricity, which had risen from 35.8 per cent in 2012 to 38.3 per cent in 2014; however, that also highlighted the need to accelerate progress, particularly in the African least developed countries. Impediments to progress included lack of investment and limited accessibility and affordability of power-generating technology.

3. Science, technology and innovation could play a major transformational role in social and economic development. The Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, established by the General Assembly in 2016, aimed to build national capacity in the area of intellectual property rights, scientific production and dissemination, and innovation adapted to those countries. The report highlighted the need to build their scientific and technological base: only 542 patents had been filed by citizens of the least developed countries in 2014 — and those had been concentrated in a few countries. By way of comparison, Indonesia alone had produced 702 patents in that same year.

4. Agriculture remained the sector with the highest share of employment in the least developed countries (about 60 per cent of the population); however, it generated only 26 per cent of value added in GDP. If poverty was to be eradicated, it was therefore critical to increase productivity through investment, extension services and better irrigation, and access to key inputs such as fertilizer and improved seeds. Moreover, the least developed countries' share in world exports had declined, underscoring the need for support in such areas as trade preferences and capacity-building.

5. Substantial but still far from sufficient progress had been made in human and social development. Rates of infant mortality remained high; over the period 2009-2015, 32 million children had been out of school, and at the secondary and tertiary levels of education, gender disparities persisted. Food insecurity and the threat of famine afflicted millions in South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen. The least developed countries were also disproportionately affected by external shocks, while the decline in commodity prices had severely impacted their ability to mobilize domestic resources. Despite those challenges, many of them had made efforts to enhance their tax revenue through reforms aimed at preventing tax evasion, broadening the tax base and improving tax administration. Official development assistance (ODA)

was still of critical importance but while it had increased in real terms in 2015, bilateral ODA to the least developed countries had declined in 2016 by 3.9 per cent in real terms from the previous year. As for foreign direct investment in those countries, while it had increased by one third in 2015, it had declined to only 2 per cent of world foreign direct investment in 2016. In the area of governance, while several challenges remained, progress had been made, particularly through compliance with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. She noted the faster pace of progress towards the target of half the number of least developed countries meeting the criteria for graduation by 2020.

6. She concluded by calling for scaled-up support for the least developed countries in areas critical for their sustainable development, as recognized by the international community. Unlocking the potential represented by the nearly one billion people living in those countries required increased resources and capacity-building as well as focused, prioritized support from development partners, the United Nations system and other international organizations, aimed in particular at addressing the infrastructure gap, increasing agricultural productivity and building the scientific, technological and innovation base. Facilitating more public and private investment would contribute to their economic diversification and the building of productive capacity critical for structural transformation and enhanced mobilization of domestic resources. Her Office remained committed to advocating for the least developed countries, supported by analytical work in relevant areas, and to improving coordination within the United Nations system in support of their advancement.

7. **Mr. Nurse** (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur of the Committee for Development Policy, introducing the Committee's report on its nineteenth session (E/2017/33), said that the Committee's work over the previous year had included monitoring the development progress of graduating and graduated least developed countries. Angola and Equatorial Guinea, which were both characterized by an imbalance between the relatively high level of per capita income and the low level of human assets, continued to suffer from low international oil prices. While Angola, scheduled for graduation in February 2021, had begun preparing a smooth transition strategy by addressing economic vulnerability through diversification, Equatorial Guinea, which had graduated earlier in the month, was still in need of urgent measures to promote human assets. Vanuatu, scheduled to graduate in December 2020, had been recovering from Cyclone Pam but remained highly vulnerable to external shocks. The Committee recommended that the Government of that country should start a dialogue with training and development partners to prepare a smooth transition strategy. The Committee had also reviewed the development progress of Samoa, which had graduated in 2014 and continued its slow but steady path to development despite its high vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks.

8. He drew the Council's attention to paragraph 11 of the Committee's report, on the need to ensure that country perspectives were reflected in the Committee's monitoring reports, and to its paragraph 51, concerning the importance of its reviews of the graduation criteria for least developed countries. In accordance with its mandate to conduct such reviews, the Committee had decided to undertake a comprehensive review of those criteria by 2020, which would focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Committee would assess to what extent the criteria reflected those five global development agendas and would identify additional indicators that might usefully be incorporated. The Committee would also, as requested in the 2016 Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, look into the reasons for and consequences of the non-application of the least developed countries category by some United Nations system organizations. A survey conducted by the Committee secretariat had shown that recognition of that category by the entities in question did not necessarily translate into a consistent application of priorities and budget allocation. Assistance to those countries was often based on the entities' own policies, priorities and criteria and not on least developed country status, even though that category had been adopted by the United Nations in order to establish development assistance as a priority.

9. Furthermore, those entities did not always have specific graduation support programmes or mechanisms for least developed countries: assistance was often reviewed on a case-by-case basis and there was no established institutional approach for the phasing out of related benefits. Such ad hoc policies added to the difficulties of graduating and graduated countries in the formulation of medium-and long-term

transition strategy. Additional efforts were needed to reduce existing differences in the application of the category and to improve the overall coherence and application of specific international support measures for the countries concerned. The Committee confirmed the findings contained in General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, in which the General Assembly expressed its serious concern at the fact that the share of expenditure for operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries was declining (para. 40).

10. The Committee secretariat was making progress in developing a web-based platform that would help least developed countries map out and assess the type of specific support currently used and available for them after graduation. The platform would enhance interministerial collaboration and private sector involvement in graduation; identify policy priorities and the use of international support measures and their phase-out; and facilitate communication between government ministries and other stakeholders as well as with key development and trading partners. The Committee recommended that, upon its completion, countries, relevant agencies and bilateral partners should make full use of the platform and that United Nations and bilateral development partners should contribute graduation information and analysis.

11. The Committee had also been considering issues related to the implications of a new development finance concept, known as "total official support for sustainable development". Despite its significance for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Committee considered that many aspects of the new concept remained imprecise. It was unclear whether the introduction of such a concept was preferable to improving the measurement of already defined areas of development finance. Rather than aggregating different flows and expenditures into two overlapping measures, namely, ODA and total official support for sustainable development, it might be better to recognize that flows were different in nature, had different purposes and generated different impacts. The question also arose as to whether the new measurement should cover all financial instruments with a development impact, such as credits and private funds, even if development was not their primary purpose. Lastly, it did not seem appropriate for the total official support concept to rely only on provider-sourced data if cross-border flows were supposed to take a recipient perspective. Ways would then need to be found to strengthen the statistical capacities of developing countries to enable them to report on flows.

12. The main purpose of redefining aid was not to increase artificially the volume of development resources but to increase the level of transparency and accountability among providers and give developing countries a clear understanding of the sources of their development financing. The recipient's interests should remain paramount. Only cross-border resources whose primary purpose was to serve countries' development priorities should be counted as development finance. Since the new concept involved actors outside the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a more representative and inclusive body, such as the Economic and Social Council, should play a more prominent role in defining it and following it up. The Committee welcomed the proposed involvement of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Council's forum on financing for development follow-up and the United Nations Statistical Commission. All relevant technical and political aspects should be included in order for the new concept to be useful in monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

13. **Ms. Haque** (Observer for Bangladesh) said that the updated information provided in the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (A/72/83-E/2017/60) concerned many highly relevant issues, in particular the pervasive poverty in those countries and the fact that their current low growth rate made it hard for them to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, combat hunger and malnutrition, and improve the provision of basic services. Still feeling the effects of the world economic and financial crises and disproportionately affected by natural calamities, pandemics and external shocks, they were in need of increased global support, yet official development assistance, foreign direct investment and exports had declined considerably in 2016 from their 2015 levels. Since technology and investment were the key drivers of structural transformation in the least developed countries, the Technology Bank and investment promotion regimes for those countries needed to be operationalized without delay. In addition, and as recommended in the report, development partners must take concrete action to reverse the negative trends noted, and States members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development must fulfil their commitment to provide between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national income to least developed countries. Her delegation welcomed the recommendations in both the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the Committee

for Development Policy and hoped that they would swiftly be translated into decisions.

Draft resolution E/2017/L.25: Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

14. **Mr. Zambrano** (Observer for Ecuador), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it contained a number of contemporary elements particularly relevant to the least developed countries. It stressed the need to reverse the decline in official development assistance and foreign direct investment and invited the President of the Council to convene a full session, at its next forum on financing for development follow-up, on adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries. A similar mandate had been given in the resolution adopted in 2016, but unfortunately it had not been put into effect. The draft resolution also called for full support from development partners to fully operationalize the Technology Bank and for continuing support from development and trading partners for sustainable graduation. The Group of 77 and China looked forward to continuing negotiations on the draft resolution and hoped that they would soon be concluded.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (A/72/64-E/2017/12 and E/2017/31-E/CN.16/2017/4)

15. **Mr. Wang Ruijin** (China), Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, introducing the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twentieth session (E/2017/31-E/CN.16/2017/4), said that the Commission had discussed the role of science and technology in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reviewed progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

16. As a contribution to the Council's high-level segment, the Commission had held two round tables. During the first round table, on eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges, there had been universal agreement that science, technology and innovation had an indispensable role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As a forum for the sharing of national experiences, best practices and lessons learned, the Commission should continue to advise the Council, the General Assembly, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other relevant forums.

17. In order to harness new and emerging technologies, national innovation systems should be strengthened and regularly assessed by Governments. The participants had welcomed the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to help developing countries to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies. The Commission should explore innovative financing models, including impact investments, that would work in developing country settings; promote international cooperation, in particular North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, through capacity-building, technology foresight and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms; and create a Sustainable Development Goals resource access hub to serve as a repository of projects, financing mechanisms, success stories and obstacles encountered by countries.

18. During the second round table, on reviewing progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the participants had acknowledged the rapid growth in broadband networks and underlined the importance of infrastructure and human capacity-building for effectively harnessing information and communications technology (ICT). Access to ICT and the Internet must be increased. The growing digital divide, including the gender digital divide, was a cause for concern. Women were 12 per cent less likely than men to use the Internet, rising to 31 per cent for women in least developed countries. Given the increasing digitalization of economic activities and transactions, the participants had welcomed the eTrade for All initiative launched by UNCTAD.

19. The Commission had also considered two priority themes. During the discussion on the first priority theme, "New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals", the Commission had encouraged Governments to support inclusive innovation that responded to the needs of poor and marginalized communities. With regard to the second priority theme, "The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030", the participants had called on Governments to support agricultural research and development and to promote investment in infrastructure, marketing and innovation.

20. UNCTAD had presented progress reports on the science, technology and innovation policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Rwanda, which had been prepared at the request of those countries. Participants had exchanged views on policy issues and shared national experiences in using science, technology and innovation to promote growth and development.

21. The Commission had adopted two draft resolutions, entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development" and "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society". Lastly, the Commission had selected two priority themes for its twenty-first session: "The role of science, technology and innovation to increase substantially the share of renewable energy by 2030" and "Building digital competencies to benefit from existing and emerging technologies, with special focus on gender and youth dimensions".

22. **Ms. Wu** Dong (Chief, Science and Technology Section, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/72/64-E/2017/12), said that the report had been prepared by UNCTAD based on information provided by 28 United Nations entities and other international organizations and stakeholders. Her presentation would focus on three issues highlighted in the report: access to and use of ICT, the effect of trends in technology and services on the information society, and developments in Internet governance.

23. With regard to ICT access and use, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) estimated that 47 per cent of the world's inhabitants had used the Internet at least once within a three-month period in 2016, a significant increase from 2005. The mobile revolution was continuing, with over 60 per cent of the world's population estimated to have at least one mobile cellular subscription.

24. However, those figures masked considerable variations. There were 90 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people in developed countries, compared with less than 20 in least developed countries. Some 84 per cent of households in Europe had Internet access at home, compared with 15 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. There was also a widening gender divide, which was worrying given the target in Sustainable Development Goal 9 on significantly increasing access to ICT and striving to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020. Thus, the digital divide remained the most critical challenge for all stakeholders.

25. Barriers to ICT access included lack of investment in infrastructure; difficult geographical environments and demographic contexts, as in the case of landlocked countries and small island developing States; inadequate complementary infrastructure, such as electrical power networks, in particular in rural areas; limited competition; weaknesses in the legal and regulatory environments for investment and innovation; and cost. Governments, the private sector and civil society must redouble their efforts to ensure that societies not only had access to ICT but were also able to benefit from the opportunities that ICT provided.

26. With regard to the effect of trends in technology and services on the information society, technology innovations were changing social and economic behaviour patterns. The rise of cloud services had raised questions about data privacy, security and jurisdiction; platform businesses such as Uber and Airbnb were challenging established business sectors; and social media had become the most important source of news for a growing number of people.

27. The pace of development was exceptional, with the number of connected devices in the Internet of things predicted to reach 30 billion by 2020. Substantial investments were being made in developing driverless cars, robotics, machine learning and artificial intelligence, all of which were likely to further transform global trade, economic production patterns, employment, social norms and cultural engagement. Governments and businesses were paying increased attention to foresight analysis and scenario planning in order to identify the social and economic impacts of such developments and the legal and regulatory requirements.

28. Noting the growing importance of electronic business and commerce, she said that between 2013 and 2015, the global value of e-commerce had risen by 38 per cent, most of which had occurred in emerging economies. Some countries were better equipped than others to benefit from the opportunities offered by e-commerce. There was a need for investment in connectivity and the underlying transactions and logistics infrastructure. The eTrade for All initiative was intended to improve the ability of developing countries to benefit from e-commerce.

29. With regard to developments in Internet governance, the functions of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority had been transferred from the Government of the United States to the global stakeholder community. In addition, Governments and stakeholders had strengthened their efforts to develop enhanced cooperation, as set out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, to enable Governments to carry out on an equal footing their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. At the request of the General Assembly, the Commission had established a working group to develop recommendations on how to further implement enhanced cooperation. Lastly, the eleventh annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum had been held in Mexico, under the theme "Enabling inclusive and sustainable growth".

30. The report concluded with a few observations. First, while ICT was central to the development of economies and societies and had tremendous potential to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it also posed new challenges. To maximize the developmental impact of ICT, the digital divide must be addressed. In addition, it was necessary to have an enabling legal and regulatory framework for investment and innovation, with a view to ensuring that governance institutions were accountable and developing workforce skills to meet the demands of the new economy. International cooperation would be essential.

31. Second, technology alone could not deliver an information society that was people-centred and inclusive, as envisaged in the Tunis Agenda. All stakeholders must work together to foster such an outcome. The challenge was how to do that when the pace of technology change exceeded the pace of decision-making processes. A strong evidence base, partnerships between Governments and other stakeholders, commitment and investment were required.

32. Lastly, the pace of technical change presented an important challenge to established governance institutions. Institutions must develop decision-making processes that could interact dynamically with the development of technology and services.

33. **Mr. Liu** Jun (China) said that during the twentieth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the delegation of China had said that the Government wished to enhance its cooperation with the Commission by hosting joint workshops and seminars for developing countries, which would be instrumental in improving their capacity for innovation. Indeed, China felt that it could contribute effectively to science, technology and innovation training programmes, which were important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In that connection, he invited young scientists from developing countries to China to conduct research and development. His delegation would be pleased to receive advice and recommendations from the countries concerned. In addition, he expressed the hope that the Commission would enhance its cooperation with the wider United Nations system, in particular the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, to ensure that innovation contributed effectively to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twentieth session
(E/2017/31-E/CN.16/2017/4)

34. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report. She noted that the draft resolutions had been adopted by the Commission at its twentieth session on the understanding that budgetary review would be carried out at Headquarters prior to action on the draft resolutions by the Council. The draft resolutions had no programme budget implications.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Draft resolution II: Science, technology and innovation for development

35. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twentieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission

36. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(h) International cooperation in tax matters (*continued*) (E/2017/45-E/C.18/2017/3)

Draft decision: Report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its fourteenth session

37. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Venue and dates of and provisional

agenda for the fifteenth session of the Committee", contained in chapter IV of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its fourteenth session (E/2017/45-E/C.18/2017/3). The draft decision had no programme budget implications.

38. *The draft decision was adopted.*

39. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its fourteenth session (E/2017/45-E/C.18/2017/3).

40. *It was so decided.*

(m) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

41. **The President** said that the Council, in its resolution 2000/32, had reaffirmed the important role of the General Assembly, the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts of the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States.

42. The Council had decided to continue its consideration of the issue under agenda item 18 on economic and environmental questions, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Assembly and the Security Council. No advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 18 (m) and there was no draft proposal before the Council.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

United Nations E/2017/SR.42

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017

Original: English

2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
Third coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 42nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 July 2017, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Chatardová (Vice-President). . . . . (Czechia)

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Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(d) Human settlements

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(f) Population and development

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17-11466 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Ms. Chatardová (Czechia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(g) Public administration and development (E/2017/44-E/C.16/2017/8)

1. **Mr. Castelazo** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), introducing the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixteenth session (E/2017/44-E/C.16/2017/8) and speaking via video link from Mexico City, said that the Committee of Experts on Public Administration had met in New York in April to examine the challenges facing public administration in ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was at the centre of the Committee's work and the principle of leaving no one behind should be a core principle of public administration of all countries. The eradication of poverty through sustainable development had important implications for public administration; that Goal must be pursued at all levels of Government. Local authorities and communities had a critical role to play, and in 2016 the Committee had recommended that such communities adopt local versions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The challenge was finding ways to support them in implementing the Goals.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixteenth session (E/2017/44-E/C.16/2017/8)

2. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A
Draft resolution: Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its sixteenth session

3. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B
Draft decision: Provisional agenda of the seventeenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

4. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(k) United Nations Forum on Forests (*continued*) (E/2017/42-E/CN.18/2017/8)

5. **Mr. Besseau** (Canada), Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests, introducing the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twelfth session (E/2017/42-E/CN.18/2017/8), said that the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests had been the first session after the historic adoption of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 by the Forum and then by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The strategic plan was a landmark plan of action representing a global commitment to achieve the Forum's six global forest goals and associated targets by 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum had held a series of panel discussions on critical issues that considered the contributions made by forests to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on forests and poverty eradication, forests and food security, forests and gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and means of implementation for sustainable forest management. Those discussions had benefited from the participation of experts and senior representatives from a wide range of partners and stakeholders, including organizations that were members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The main issues and ideas that had emerged from those panel discussions were contained in the report and also in the Forum's input to the 2017 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Voluntary national contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets, means of implementation, and enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues were among the elements of the draft resolution adopted by the Forum, and brought to the Council's attention in the report.

Draft decision: Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twelfth session and provisional agenda for its thirteenth session

6. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twelfth session and provisional agenda for its thirteenth session", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its twelfth session (E/2017/42-E/CN.18/2017/8).

7. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (E/FFDF/2017/3)

Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum on financing for development follow-up: Follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

8. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the recommendation contained in chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2017/3). She took it that the Council wished to transmit the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum on financing for development follow-up to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council at its 2017 session.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **Ms. Sutton** (United States of America) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the recommendation that the Council should transmit to the high-level political forum on sustainable development the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations in the report. In so doing, the United States reaffirmed the statements, clarifications and disassociations made by its representative when the forum had adopted the draft intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(d) Human settlements (A/72/8 ; E/2017/61; E/2017/L.26)

11. **Mr. Decorte** (Acting Director of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2017/61) and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-sixth session (A/72/8), said that sustainable urbanization had become part of the development agenda. Sustainable Development Goal 11 ("Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable") recognized cities as catalysts of development.

12. A joint vision of urban planning, building and management had been developed, and awareness had grown around the need to support a paradigm change in the existing urbanization model. In October 2016, Member States had adopted the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The New Urban Agenda gave concrete guidance on how to make use of the opportunities provided by urbanization, so that it could be an engine of sustained and inclusive economic growth, social and cultural development and environmental protection.

13. During the period covered in the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2017/61), UN-Habitat had actively participated in meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators, coordinated the inputs of other United Nations system entities on the review and refinement of the indicators for Goal 11 and other Goals with an urban dimension, prepared a global monitoring framework guide for Goal 11, articulated a national approach to monitoring a sample of cities, and worked to improve the feasibility of individual indicators. It had collaborated with the regional economic commissions in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and helped the commissions to prepare their regional reports for Habitat III. Member States were encouraged to consider the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report.

14. Turning to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-sixth session (A/72/8), he said that the twenty-sixth session, as the first session following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, had had special significance. Its theme had been "Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda" and it had highlighted the importance of empowering local governments and other stakeholders to play a role in the process. The Governing Council had adopted nine resolutions, including one on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and another entitled "Enhancing the role of UN-Habitat in urban crisis response" to better support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in countries affected by conflict and/or natural and human-caused disasters.

Draft resolution E/2017/L.26: Human settlements

15. **The President** invited the Council to turn its attention to draft resolution E/2017/L.26, entitled "Human settlements", submitted by Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. **Mr. Viera** (Observer for Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution.

17. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.26 was adopted.*

18. **Mr. Maturu** (Observer for Kenya) said that his country had joined the consensus on the decision of the Council to transmit the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda to the General Assembly and looked forward to the effective implementation of that report, the first report to be produced following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

Oral decision

19. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-sixth session (A/72/8).

20. *It was so decided.*

Item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions *(continued)*

(g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/2017/62 and E/2017/L.27)

21. **Mr. Ussing** (Chief of Governance and Multilateral Affairs, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)), introducing the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (E/2017/62), prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2015/2, said that since the last UNAIDS report to the Council in April 2015, the international community had adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, which included a commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy was the first in the United Nations system to be aligned with those Goals. In the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted by the General Assembly in June 2016, Member States had agreed on a set of specific targets to be attained by 2020. Accordingly, and in the light also of evidence-based programmatic approaches, many countries had adopted and implemented policies and programmes leading to a rapid increase in access to treatment and a decrease in AIDS-related deaths. There had also been a decrease in new HIV infections, thanks in particular to significant domestic and international investments in prevention, confirming that ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 was achievable.

22. Substantial advances continued to be made in the global AIDS response, predominantly through increased access to antiretroviral treatment, up from under 3 million receiving such treatment in 2005 to 18.2 million by mid-2016. While, however, AIDS-related deaths had fallen by 45 per cent since 2005, more still needed to be done to prevent new HIV infections, in particular by higher investment in prevention and scaled-up services. Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe stood out: the HIV infection rate had dropped by more than 50 per cent in all three countries between 2003 and 2015. Among children, there had been steady progress in the reduction of HIV infection, which had fallen by 51 per cent between 2010 and 2015, thanks in part to efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission. The progress was not unrelated to increased domestic investment in the AIDS response, which had grown to more than 70 per cent of the AIDS budget in Botswana, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa, propelled by the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity in combating AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

23. AIDS was nevertheless the thirteenth cause of death globally, the second cause of death in Africa and the leading cause of death worldwide among women of reproductive age. In 2015, 36.7 million people had been living with HIV, including 2.1 million newly infected in that year. Sub-Saharan Africa remained the most heavily affected region, with 66 per cent of new HIV infections. Women, particularly those in the 15-19-year-old age group, continued to be affected at a higher rate than men and some specific populations were disproportionately affected. Moreover, the increased domestic investment had flatlined in the previous four years in low-and middle-income countries, and at a significantly lower level than had been agreed to be necessary.

24. The Joint Programme was providing assistance in over 100 countries, with focused attention on fast-tracking the response in 35 priority countries, which together accounted for 82 per cent of people living with HIV, 78 per cent of annual new HIV infections and 91 per cent of children born with HIV. It continued to be the only co-sponsored Joint Programme in the United Nations system and had been recognized by the Council as a model for the achievement of enhanced strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance and country-level impact, based on national contexts and priorities. Just one week previously, its Coordinating Board had reaffirmed its critical role in leading the global AIDS response. The Board had requested the Joint Programme to follow up

on the recommendations of the Global Review Panel for a refined operating model and had approved its 2018-2019 budget, based on the key principles and modalities established by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The refined framework was more streamlined and better reflected regional differences; it also called for greater use of co-sponsors' own mobilization frameworks.

25. The funding environment was such that the Joint Programme needed to work in new ways and with significantly fewer dedicated HIV staff, in particular within the co-sponsoring organizations. Member States must therefore give more support to co-sponsors in mobilizing and leveraging more resources for HIV work, which should be further mainstreamed into their broader development work.

26. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goal target of halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS had generated great optimism, but the fact remained that 18 million people were still awaiting treatment and that there were 6,000 new HIV infections every week among young women in sub-Saharan Africa. UNAIDS counted on the continued support of the Council in combating the scourge and thereby contributing to development, health, gender equality, equity and human rights.

27. **Mr. Löbel** (Germany) said that global health, including the end of the AIDS epidemic, was at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals and that, at the current time of leadership transitions, it was more important than ever to guide the international community towards a coordinated and effective response to that global challenge. Draft resolution E/2017L.27, which the Council would be considering at the current meeting, captured the unique multisectoral and human rights-based nature of the Joint Programme, bringing together the UNAIDS Secretariat and its 11 co-sponsors. The decisions adopted by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board would further improve the operation of the Joint Programme and help to maintain it as a model for United Nations collaboration and reform.

28. **Ms. Randik** (Estonia) said that UNAIDS, the World Health Organization and other stakeholders had taken commendable steps to prevent and control HIV/AIDS but that critical challenges remained, including the discrimination and stigma that surrounded the disease. Effective care and continuing active participation in social, family and working life must be ensured through testing and early diagnosis; a community-based approach and advocacy were crucial. Innovative approaches, developed through private-public cooperation, were needed. She cited the example of her own country, where HIV-positive patients could connect with their doctors via a digital platform. Co-infections, for instance with tuberculosis or hepatitis A, were also a cause of concern, as were the correlations between migrant flows and HIV. Estonia and Croatia were the only Eastern European countries to have successfully graduated from donor-based financing of HIV/AIDS response. She called on national Governments to increase their investments in HIV/AIDS response and reiterated her Government's full commitment to tackling the challenges involved.

29. **Mr. Chakeche** (Zimbabwe) said that the HIV/AIDS epidemic was a heavy burden on sub-Saharan Africa and that his country welcomed the progress made in combating it. However, only by maintaining the necessary political will and financial commitment, and stepping up efforts to address the remaining challenges, could the epidemic be ended by 2030. His delegation was concerned about the funding gap for the global response and believed that the international community should prioritize investments to that end in a spirit of shared responsibility and global solidarity. Zimbabwe, for its part, had seen a significant decline in HIV/AIDS incidence through its work on the UNAIDS 90-90-90 initiative and the population-based HIV/AIDS impact assessment. It had also introduced an AIDS levy that had enabled it to continue providing antiretroviral therapy to those in need, including women and children. Young women and girls were indeed disproportionately affected by the pandemic in the sub-Saharan region, making it all the more necessary to eliminate all forms of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against them. His Government had drawn lessons from the response to the pandemic, particularly that it could not be addressed in isolation but must go hand in hand with the empowerment of women, gender equality, poverty eradication, sustainable national health-care systems, food security and social protection for vulnerable groups. With its multisectoral and multi-stakeholder response, and its interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals, the Joint Programme could contribute to the United Nations development system, serving as a pathfinder for the 2030 Agenda.

30. Zimbabwe attached great importance to its partnership with the Joint Programme and, as a past member of the Coordinating Board, was pleased that the goals and targets of the UNAIDS Strategy for 2016-2021 underpinned the commitments set out in the 2016 Political Declaration. If the Strategy's targets for an accelerated response were met by 2020, it would put the world on a firm path towards ending the epidemic

by 2030. His delegation supported the efforts to refine and strengthen the operating model of the Joint Programme and called for its full funding to enable it to achieve its goals.

Draft resolution E/2017/L.27: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

31. **Ms. Pobee** (Ghana), co-facilitator, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of her country and the United Kingdom, which were serving as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, said that, through the continued commitment of the international community, extraordinary results had been achieved in tackling the disease. The Joint Programme had continued to play a critical role in the HIV/AIDS response and had adapted itself to the changing context. The international community was, however, at a critical juncture, faced with a worrying decrease in investments, notably in the Joint Programme, which needed to function effectively in order to fast-track the response in accordance with the 2016-2021 Strategy. The draft resolution reflected that concern and also the common commitment to work with and through the Joint Programme to reach the targets agreed in the 2016 Political Declaration, with a view to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030.

32. **Mr. Hickey** (United Kingdom), co-facilitator, said that his Government, which remained committed to ending the epidemic by 2030, was concerned about the funding gap of the Joint Programme. Predictable, sustainable financing was essential for its effective functioning. The United Kingdom had concluded a five-year funding agreement for UNAIDS; Ghana had doubled its own contribution to the Joint Programme. He called on other donors, current and new, to continue or to join those efforts.

33. **Mr. Dolbow** (United States of America) said that all the efforts made by the international community had set the tone for the work ahead to end the epidemic globally by 2030. It was, however, critical for all the partners to continue to fast-track the response and for there to be continued global solidarity and an increase in shared responsibility and strategic investment. All Governments should redouble their efforts to that end, in particular by aligning their resources with the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. As 2020 drew near, it was growing ever more necessary to ensure political, programmatic and financial accountability and sustainability at all levels of the response.

34. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

35. *Draft resolution E/2017/L.27 was adopted.*

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2017/73)

36. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to approve the list of nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contained in document E/2017/73 that had requested to be heard at the high-level segment of its 2017 session.

37. *It was so decided.*

Item 18 : Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(f) Population and development (E/2017/25-E/CN.9/2017/6)

38. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar), Chair of the Commission on Population and Development, introducing the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fiftieth session (E/2017/25-E/CN.9/2017/6), said that it had focused on the special theme "Changing population age structures and sustainable development", with particular attention to Chapter VI of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The participants had generally agreed that long-term changes in the age distribution of the human population needed to be taken into account as Member States sought to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite extensive informal consultations, however, no consensus had been reached, on all the issues addressed in the draft resolution prepared on the special theme; the deliberations in connection with it were therefore summarized in the report.

39. The report also contained three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council: one, in two parts, whereby the Council took note of the Commission's report on its fiftieth session and approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-first session; the other two on aspects of the Commission's methods of work that required further clarification, namely, the Commission's multi-year work programme and the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. An overview of the deliberations and of the substantive documents that had helped to inform the discussion was set out in the summary of the report, which had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council. The report also contained two

decisions adopted by the Commission at its April session, which were brought to the attention of the Council.

40. As for the Commission's failure to achieve consensus on a draft resolution on the special theme of the session, she said that she shared the concern of many delegations that that had happened twice in the past three years. She called on Member States to continue discussing the important topics debated by the Commission since its first session in 1947 and, in future, to strive even harder to reach consensus on them. Her own country, Qatar, stood ready to support the Chair and Bureau of the Commission during its fifty-first session and to work with other Commission members to reach a consensus in 2018.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fiftieth session (E/2017/25-E/CN.9/2017/6)

41. **The President** drew attention to the draft decisions contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-first session

Draft decision II: Report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Draft decision III: Multi-year work programme of the Commission on Population and Development, including the cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

42. *Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

United Nations E/2017/SR.43

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 September 2017

Original: English

2017 session
28 July 2016-27 July 2017
High-level segment

Summary record of the 43rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 17 July 2017, at 9 a.m.

President: Mr. Shava ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 5: High-level segment

Opening of the segment

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17-12050 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (E/2017/33 and E/2017/64)

Opening of the segment

1. **The President** declared open the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council, including the three-day ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council.

Statement by the President

2. **The President** said that despite a steady decline in recent decades, the total number of people living in extreme poverty remained unacceptably high. Inequalities among and within countries remained deep. Conflicts, tensions and terrorism threatened humanity, and many regions were feeling the impact of climate change.

3. In the face of such challenges, the solidarity and cooperation that characterized multilateralism were more important than ever, and collective support for the poor and most vulnerable was in everyone's interest. That solidarity was embodied in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, a historic Agenda that demanded innovative and far-reaching action at the local, national, regional and international levels. The 2030 Agenda also required increased integration, strong coordination and enhanced collaboration between and within countries.

4. The theme of the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council was "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". Poverty eradication was indispensable to sustainable development, and it required synergies across all dimensions of sustainable development and a special focus on marginalized people and communities so as to leave no one behind.

5. The 2017 high-level political forum was the first to review the progress that had been made towards achieving seven out of the 17 Goals. The review had highlighted the interconnectedness of the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development and had underscored the need for an integrated approach. Countries were improving their inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination and had adopted sustainable development strategies. In addition, parliaments were mainstreaming the Goals, and provinces were implementing the Goals locally.

6. Social inclusion, access to health care, education, energy and safe infrastructure vital to national development were all important for poverty eradication. Women and girls, especially those who lived in poverty, were disproportionally impacted by climate change, disasters and conflict but were nevertheless the primary drivers of development and must be empowered as agents of change.

7. A lack of official statistics, data and effective monitoring remained a significant challenge in terms of measuring progress towards the Goals, both domestically and globally. Integrated and coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level required interministerial collaboration and a clear connection to the means of implementation. It also required full multi-stakeholder engagement.

8. The ministerial segment of the high-level forum, including the presentation of 44 voluntary national reviews and two special events, a Business Forum and a Partnership Exchange, would doubtless contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

9. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji), President of the General Assembly, said that during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, every effort had been made to drive momentum for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through a series of high-level events and awareness-raising meetings with Heads of State, multilateral bodies, regional commissions, United Nations country teams, philanthropic foundations, business leaders, women's groups, grass-roots actors, students and young people all over the world. Progress on the Goals also required on-the-ground implementation. Everyone must be made aware of the Goals, so that citizens understood their rights and responsibilities with respect to global sustainability. Governments and universities had been urged to incorporate the Goals in educational curricula. Meaningful partnerships were vital to the cause; success would depend on Governments, civil society, investors and grass-roots organizations. The Ocean Conference that had been held at United Nations Headquarters in June had been an example of that spirit of partnership. Thousands of participants from the global community had gathered to identify the problems facing the oceans, and through focused partnership dialogues, a comprehensive set of solutions

had been produced and were being prepared for implementation.

10. In order to achieve the Goals, the necessary resources must be mobilized and official development assistance (ODA) commitments must be met. The financial sector was ready to fund Goal-related infrastructure projects. Technology, innovation and interconnectivity should also be harnessed towards the achievement of the Goals. In East Africa, for example, digital services afforded access to banking and health care, and such services integrated labour markets into the global economy.

11. Much remained to be done to promote rights, equal opportunity, economic empowerment and political participation for women and girls. However, change was under way and would be an incremental driver of equality, growth and sustainability.

Statement by the Secretary-General

12. **The Secretary-General** said that in 1995, when he had assumed the office of Prime Minister of Portugal, the world had been surfing a wave of optimism. The Cold War had ended, technological progress had been in full swing, the Internet had been spreading and there had been an idea that globalization would not only increase global wealth but that it would "trickle down" and benefit everyone. Twenty years later, the picture was mixed. It was true that globalization had dramatically increased trade and wealth around the world, and it was true that the number of absolute poor had been reduced and that living conditions had improved all over the world. However, it was also true that globalization and technological progress had contributed to increased inequality. Eight individuals held as much wealth as half of the world's population. At the same time, it was clear that people had been left behind in the rust belts of the world and youth unemployment had become a severe problem in certain regions, not only undermining the futures of those young people but also creating an obstacle to the development of their countries. Without hope, they could, in some circumstances, be easily recruited by extremist organizations.

13. It was true that that had generated a loss of confidence in Governments, in international organizations like the United Nations, and in the ideas of global governance and multilateral institutions. There was no way for countries to solve those problems alone; global answers were needed. Multilateral forms of governance were needed and the trust deficit would have to be overcome. The 2030 Agenda held enormous potential as it aimed at fair globalization, at not leaving anyone behind and at eradicating poverty. It also aimed at creating the conditions for people to trust again, not only in political systems, but in multilateral forms of governance and international organizations such as the United Nations.

14. It was clear that the global economy was improving, albeit slowly, and political, institutional and societal fragility was increasing. Fragility was largely responsible for the spread of many conflicts and for the linkage of those conflicts with the threat of global terrorism. That was why sustainable development agendas needed to be linked to peace agendas. However, there was a caveat: that link should not be a pretext for moving resources from development needs to security. Rather, development was crucial and it was necessary to recognize that sustainable and inclusive development was in itself a major factor in the prevention of conflict, natural disasters and other issues that were dependent on social resilience.

15. When examining global megatrends such as population growth, climate change, food insecurity, water scarcity and chaotic urbanization in certain parts of the world, it was obvious that they all interacted and that climate change was the main accelerator of all the others. There must be a strong reaffirmation of commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and enhanced ambition with respect to climate change, as the Agreement itself was not enough to solve global warming. Solving climate change was necessary for the future of humankind and the planet, and it was also the right and smart thing to do. The green economy was increasingly the economy of the future. Green business was good business, and those who did not bet on green technologies would inevitably lose economic leadership in the future.

16. It was important to respond not only to the problems of those living under Governments, but also to the problems of refugees and migrants. The effort to leave no one behind would encourage ways of looking at migration with a different perspective, a perspective not of rejection but of understanding that solving that issue was an important component of solving global problems. More legal avenues must be found for migrants, and there must be more respect for their human rights. Global megatrends were compelling increasing numbers of people to migrate. Unnecessary migration should be prevented, and necessary migration should be orderly.

17. Developed countries needed to uphold their commitments with respect to official development assistance. At the same time, it should be understood that that would not be enough for funding the implementation of the Goals. States should mobilize more of their own resources through domestic tax reform, but the international community should also be encouraged to help fight tax evasion, money-laundering and illicit flows of capital, which had created a situation in which more cash left developing countries than entered those countries in the form of official development assistance. International financial institutions should be able to leverage resources and increase their capacity to fund the Goals. Countries should also be helped to access global and financial markets and attract private investment, as that was necessary for achievement of the Goals.

18. The world was facing a fourth industrial revolution that would have a dramatic impact on labour markets, and which would pose a problem for developing countries relying on cheap labour power as their comparative advantage. Many cheap labour jobs would be destroyed in the future due to robotics and automation. That was also a problem for many developed societies, such as the United States, where there might not be a future need for truck and automobile drivers. Those trends should be anticipated, and countries and international organizations should work together, and not merely react but foresee what was coming and invest in education, training and adaptation of the labour market so that it could cope with the challenges of the future.

19. Reform was also needed at the country level and at the United Nations level. Countries should look into their governance mechanisms and the methods they used to ensure the participation of citizens, businesses and civil society in development objectives. They should also examine their methods of fighting corruption and guaranteeing not only civil and political rights, but also economic, social and cultural rights. Even though the United Nations development system had made important contributions, namely, in the context of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, it was not fully ready for the new challenges of the 2030 Agenda. That was why the report of the Secretary-General on the reform of the United Nations development system had been presented to the Council.

20. That report highlighted a few areas of concern. At the country level, there was a need for empowered resident coordinators and more effective and more coordinated country teams that were able to deliver support to Governments according to their strategies. Governments were leading the implementation of the Agenda, and there must be more accountability to them at the national level. At the same time, there should be a level of coordination, transparency and accountability at the global level, that is, to the Council and the General Assembly. Gender parity at the United Nations must also be an instrument for supporting gender mainstreaming in the application of all policies related to the 2030 Agenda. Finally, funding needed to be in line with the objectives of coherence and accountability. That was why there had been a proposal for a funding compact to guarantee coherence instead of dispersion of funding.

21. He welcomed the strong commitment to the implementation of the Agenda and the strong affirmation of support for multilateral governance as the way to lead the 2030 Agenda, respecting the leadership of Member States while recognizing that only by working together could trust be rebuilt, and could the Agenda bring the fair globalization that the world needed.

Keynote address

22. **Professor Sachs** (Director, Earth Institute at Columbia University), delivering a keynote address on the state of the world, said that according to International Monetary Fund estimates of global output for 2017, there was enough money to end all poverty, ensure universal access to health care and quality education and provide the investment needed for environmental sustainability. At the same time, however, over 2,000 billionaires held $7.7 trillion. The world had arrived at an era of stunning inequality alongside unprecedented wealth and productivity. War and military spending cost the world an estimated $13 trillion per year, while the cost of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals was estimated at $3 trillion. Funds spent on war or those stored in offshore tax havens could easily pay for sustainable development.

23. Governments must take action in five main areas. The first was quality health care and education. In the least developed countries, only 20 per cent of children finished secondary school. The second area was sustainable land management, as nearly every country suffered from a land management crisis, with unprecedented loss of biodiversity and degradation of soil, water and tree cover. The third area was decent employment and infrastructure for all. The fourth area was the decarbonization of the energy system, which was an essential condition of planetary safety. By 2050, global emissions should be down to zero, and electricity should be generated through zero-carbon

energy sources. The fifth area was good governance, which involved honesty, fairness and transparency in government.

24. He saw a number of opportunities for change. Firstly, the world was in the midst of one of the greatest scientific and technological revolutions in human history: information and communication technologies had given rise to breakthroughs in delivery of health care, education, governance and finance, even to the remotest places on the planet. Secondly, through political will, large-scale infrastructure projects were under way in places like China and Africa. Thirdly, reduced technology costs meant that renewable energy could be deployed in areas located far from the grid. Fourthly, there was an opportunity to mobilize the global knowledge pool and grant students and researchers everywhere free access to thousands of online scholarly publications.

25. A number of obstacles nevertheless remained. Firstly, lobby groups for vested interests, such as the powerful coal, oil and gas industry, resisted change. That lobby would kill the planet if it continued in its current form. The second obstacle was presented by certain extremely rich individuals who resisted taxation, accountability and disclosure, and who controlled the levers of power. Belligerent world leaders who took part in proxy wars posed the third obstacle. The fourth obstacle was the lack of bold strategies and the continuation of business as usual. The fifth obstacle was the nearly one billion people who were struggling to survive when a fraction of the world's wealth would close the financing gap.

26. In light of those opportunities and obstacles, certain steps should be pursued. The first step was to ensure the global compliance of the oil and gas industry, as a few powerful industries must not be allowed to endanger the planet. In addition, investment was needed in environment, social and governance projects. A special fund should be created for the implementation of the Goals in low-income countries. Universal education and health coverage and the eradication of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria were critical, and billionaires should step forward to help. The trillions of dollars in tax havens also needed to be tapped, and the $2 trillion spent on armaments should be diverted to development. Crippling debt should be converted into investments in Sustainable Development Goal areas, and a small tax on offshore deposits would produce the funding necessary for universal education and health care. The Security Council should assume more responsibility for the Goals. Every one of the world's conflict areas was a disaster zone in terms of the Goals, although there had been successes, such as the agreement made between the five plus one group and Iran. That agreement showed how the world could promote the peace that was crucial for the success of the Goals. Funding for damages and losses due to environmental disasters should follow the polluter pays principle. Countries that suffered natural disasters should be entitled to compensation, as such disasters were caused by the emissions of the richest countries. Finally, technology road maps were needed; in that connection, hundreds of universities were prepared to work together with Governments to put knowledge at the service of development.

27. **The President** said that the Bureau of the Council wished to share the main messages emanating from the first week of the high-level political forum, particularly with respect to the regional dimensions of Goals 1, 2 and 9. The regional forums on sustainable development were a critical link between the national and global levels. While many countries had improved inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination and had adopted sustainable development strategies, others had seen increasing inequality. Parliaments were mainstreaming the Goals at the local level, and key drivers of transformation in all regions included women and youth. Mobilizing domestic and foreign financing was crucial for regional implementation.

28. Despite progress towards Goal 1, 767 million people still lived in extreme poverty. The greatest progress had been seen in East and South-East Asia, while sub-Saharan Africa still experienced high levels of extreme poverty. Poverty statistics needed to take account of factors other than economic growth. Preliminary data showed that in 2016, less than half of the world's population had been covered by a social protection system. Quality education was one of the most important means for lifting people out of poverty and must be made freely available to all. Investment in infrastructure was also needed for poverty eradication.

29. In order to achieve Goal 2, the interdependence of poverty and hunger must be acknowledged. Food security and nutrition governance must be more inclusive at all levels. Urgent action was required to respond to severe food insecurity and famine, and legal frameworks must be strengthened to promote a rights-based approach to food security. Women's access to land, productive assets and decision-making were critical for achieving food security and sustainable agriculture. Agriculture must become more knowledge-intensive to achieve income and productivity targets for small and family farmers, and technology and agricultural innovation should be guided by local needs. Production practices should be diversified in

order to ensure resilience to climate change and in order to prevent land and water degradation.

30. Robust infrastructure underpinned all growth. Transportation, information and communications technology, electricity, water and sanitation were important for employment and economic well-being. While trade was also important, local demand must be increased by empowering the middle classes in developing countries. Efforts should be made to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises and microenterprises were given support, and that small businesses had access to financing and technology. The digital economy had created unprecedented opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to access new markets through electronic platforms; new rules for e-commerce could establish a level playing field for them internationally.

31. Industrialization and infrastructure should support and not harm the environment. Innovations such as smart metering for utilities, enhanced agroforestry data, satellite imaging of crops to determine irrigation needs and blockchain technologies to enhance market access were used around the world, and the cost of such technologies was decreasing. The challenge would be to increase access to them and ensure that they were shared equitably.

Messages from the high-level political forum on sustainable development

32. **Ms. Chatardová** (Czechia), Vice-President, reporting on the outcome of the meeting of senior officials held the previous week, said that the Goal 3 review had emphasized the multi-sectoral nature of successful health interventions. The social determinants of health must be addressed so that progress in achieving Goal 3 would lead to progress in other Goals as well. Health care needed to be linked to initiatives in education, nutrition, empowerment of women and girls, climate change and air pollution, and financial mechanisms such as taxation. Governments and other stakeholders must adequately fund health research, community-based interventions, health infrastructure and social safety nets. She stressed the importance of work at the local level, of listening to the voices of the community, including youth, women, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities; of training and hiring health workers; and of devoting greater effort to collecting and analysing disaggregated data and making it transparent and accessible to all. The most effective way to improve health care was to educate girls and increase investment in women and girls, including in their sexual and reproductive health.

33. The achievement of Goal 5 was necessary for bringing about prosperous societies. Some progress had been made in ending discrimination against women and girls in law, policy and practices since the adoption of the Goals. Many countries had developed legal provisions that linked the development agenda to human rights conventions calling for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, and some had made efforts to encourage women's participation in science, technology, engineering and business. However, much remained to be done before systemic and structural changes would take hold. A greater effort must be made to improve the capacity of State and non-State actors to collect and analyse gender-disaggregated data.

34. With regard to leveraging interlinkages, various concepts and terminologies such as coordination, policy coherence, synergies, and trade-offs, should be clarified; interlinkages and coordination were connected, but not the same. Political leadership was important for effective interministerial coordination and policy coherence. The success of a whole-of-government approach should be evaluated by results rather than by processes. Interlinkages should be reflected in incremental budget allocation, highlighted in voluntary national reviews and prominently featured in revision of the Secretary-General's voluntary guidelines. With so much of the implementation of the Goals centred on data, an effort must be made to implement tier 1 indicators, work on tier 2 indicators and develop methodologies for tier 3 indicators. She stressed the need for disaggregated data, the creation of national statistical offices, and the collection of data from those actually at risk of being left behind.

35. **Mr. Barros Melet** (Chile), Vice-President, reporting on some of the other issues addressed at the meeting of senior officials, said that in order for the Goals to be achieved in small island developing States, political commitment was required at the highest level, and all political actors must be consulted throughout the development process. Building implementation capacity across all sectors, monitoring progress regularly and reporting to the public would foster a culture of transparency and accountability. Stakeholder engagement and effective partnerships, including with the private sector, civil society, youth, academia and development partners of those States, would be key to facilitating implementation. Regional initiatives such as the Pacific Non-communicable Diseases Roadmap promoted evidence-based policies and discouraged consumption of unhealthy foods.

36. Reporting on the session on countries in special situations, he said that investment in smallholder

agriculture was a way for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and post-conflict countries to develop resilience and achieve the Goals. Unemployment was a significant challenge for least developed countries. Sustained and environmentally sound economic growth was needed for job creation. Landlocked countries faced particular problems that should be addressed through enhanced access to markets and new technologies.

37. Development finance for countries in special situations should be more reliable and diversified. More systematic collaboration between Governments and communities was necessary to address barriers to financing. Post-conflict countries could suffer from fragmentation of development planning. Middle-income countries were home to 75 per cent of the global population, over a third of global gross domestic product (GDP) and a quarter of the global export and import sector. Countries should not be classified as middle-income solely on the basis of income per capita. Life expectancy, institutional development, the number of people living in poverty, the unemployment rate and technological progress, among other indicators, should also be taken into account.

38. With regard to the session on science, technology and innovation, he said that flexible and participatory road maps were essential for achievement of the Goals. Where possible, needs should be met through existing low-cost technologies, which required scientists to engage with the realities faced by local communities. Smart investment by Governments, the private sector and other partners should be scaled up, including for capacity-building in science, technology and innovation to unlock the creative potential of youth and women. Incentives for the private sector would help channel technology and innovation into processes for achievement of the Goals. Efforts should be made to understand the potentially disruptive social effects of new technologies such as nanotechnology, automation, artificial intelligence, gene editing and three-dimensional printing. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism was well placed to engage with science and should be supported as a catalyst for multi-stakeholder partnerships.

39. As for the session on science-policy interface and emerging issues, he said that science was crucial for understanding the trade-offs and interlinkages among the Goals. While indicators could only describe the past, science could provide informed advice on the future and affect policymaking on sustainable development. The science-policy interface should take place within an inclusive multi-stakeholder framework that drew on all sciences, as well as traditional and indigenous knowledge. Lastly, better use must be made of available data. Building scientists' capacity to engage with the public beyond academia was as important as educating policymakers on scientific issues.

40. **Mr. Schulz** (Germany), Vice-President, reporting on other issues addressed at the meeting of senior officials, said that, in the discussions on multi-stakeholder perspectives on eradicating poverty in a changing world, it was agreed that Governments should find ways to incorporate the voices of other stakeholders in the review process. The private sector had a crucial role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Farmers were ready for closer cooperation with Governments, which was critical for sustainable agriculture. Women's groups were helping to address gender-based violence and were promoting women's empowerment through awareness campaigns, capacity-building and improved access to financing. Global youth-led initiatives promoted accountability at the national level and were spearheading various initiatives to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

41. The Ocean Conference held in June had created universal momentum for the creation of new partnerships for the achievement of Goal 14. Oceans could provide sources of renewable energy such as tidal, wave and wind energy. It was important to continue discussions on an international, legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

42. Respect for indigenous and local knowledge facilitated the full engagement of communities and helped preserve the notion of environmental stewardship and responsibility. Indigenous peoples should be included in decision-making at all levels, and local communities should be borne in mind in the development of conservation plans.

43. **Mr. Munir** (Pakistan), Vice-President, reporting on some of the other issues addressed at the meeting of senior officials, said that poverty was not defined by monetary income alone, but rather by multiple dimensions that needed to be addressed. Progress towards eradicating poverty in the era of the Millennium Development Goals had been uneven, with inequity persisting and many communities left behind. The Multidimensional Poverty Index was a tool used by many countries to complement traditional, income-based measures. Good governance was needed to assess and take action on the information gleaned from

that Index and from other sources. Multidimensional poverty was influenced by a number of detrimental and interdependent trends, such as climate change, destruction of natural resources, pollution and other stressors.

44. With regard to investment and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, he said that national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda were impacted by the macroeconomic climate, the threats posed by climate change, humanitarian crises and conflicts. The 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up had sent a strong message that the international community remained deeply committed to inclusiveness, multilateralism and the global partnership for sustainable development. The intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum on financing for development follow-up had reaffirmed key elements of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The outcome had highlighted the need for further reform in order to ensure the full and timely implementation of the Goals.

45. International public finance would continue to complement the efforts made by countries to mobilize domestic resources, especially in the poorest countries. A strong business case must be made for increased private capital investment in the Goals, as current levels were inadequate. Greater public scrutiny was also needed; to that end, the United Nations should develop guidelines to ensure that private sector investment shared risks and rewards fairly, included clear accountability mechanisms and met social and environmental standards.

Presentations by the ministerial chairs of the regional forums on sustainable development

46. **Mr. Daoudi** (Morocco), Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of General Affairs and Governance, presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, 2017, said that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in cooperation with the Government of Morocco and the League of Arab States, had organized the Arab Forum under the theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Arab region".

47. The discussions at that Forum had addressed urgent regional and transnational issues, primarily social, economic and environmental disparities, youth unemployment; and discrimination against women. The participants had all agreed that conflicts, extremism and violence had undermined previous achievements and would impact the rights of future generations. The message of the Forum had stressed a number of principles, such as commitment to the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, relevant ministerial decisions and resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States, the need to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

48. The Forum had emphasized the importance of leadership and national ownership to implementing the 2030 Agenda based on specific circumstances and national priorities, and with input from civil society stakeholders. The Arab Forum had also discussed the policies, mechanisms, and the constitutional and legal procedures that aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

49. The Forum had concluded that in order to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity, transformational change was needed in the Arab region. Such transformation required political, economic and social restructuring, as well as the integration of environmental issues, labour market reform, strengthened syndicates, social dialogue and reform of financial and taxation policies in order to ensure fairer income distribution.

50. The Forum had also addressed a number of regional priorities such as gender equality and empowerment of women as an agent of development throughout the Arab region. Legal frameworks should be reviewed in order to put an end to violence and harmful practices against women and girls. National sovereignty over natural resources, sound and sustainable management, and protection and use of natural resources were also of paramount importance.

51. Food security challenges were chronic and urgent, especially with respect to refugees and internally displaced persons. Agricultural production needed to be strengthened and dependence on imports reduced. Sustainable agriculture needed to be developed as a strategic option for the States of the region. An integrated approach to health should be adopted. The Arab Forum had paid special attention to disability issues and human rights and their relationship to the 2030 Agenda.

52. **Mr. Guzmán Ortiz** (Mexico), Chief of Staff of the President of Mexico and Executive Secretary of the National Council for Sustainable Agenda, presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum of the Countries of Latin American and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, 2017, said that the Forum,

held in April, had reaffirmed had that the eradication of poverty in all its forms was the most pressing challenge faced by the world and was essential for achieving sustainable development. It had also underscored the importance of the New Urban Agenda, multilateral agreements on financing for development, the fight against climate change, and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and recognized that Governments shouldered the greatest responsibility when it came to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Forthcoming meetings of the Forum would include representation from civil society groups and academia as well as the private sector, which had the potential to change consumption and production patterns. Official development assistance, climate finance and South-South cooperation would be crucial.

53. Further efforts were needed to reduce the illicit financial flows that were the result of tax evasion and corruption. States should not promulgate or apply unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law. The Forum urged the United Nations to provide data on sustainable development progress that went beyond per capita income and acknowledged all dimensions of development. Through peer review and peer learning at the regional level, the countries in the Forum were exchanging best practices and identifying opportunities for regional cooperation. Recently launched discussions on the impact of automation and new technologies on sustainable development would be expanded with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the Forum also planned to establish a task force to elaborate relevant regional recommendations. The region's commitment to the 2030 Agenda was reflected by the fact that in 2016 and 2017, 14 Latin American countries had presented voluntary national reviews.

54. **Ms. Edillon** (Philippines), Undersecretary for Planning and Policy, National Economic and Development Authority, presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2017, said that two important documents had been adopted at the session, namely the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the form and function of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. Asia and the Pacific was the first region to develop a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The road map had identified priority areas, implementation measures and a process for tracking the achievement of the Goals, and was expected to achieve three objectives: strengthening regional cooperation on the priority issues identified by the member States, enabling continued and more efficient and coordinated support for member States, and facilitating more effective knowledge-sharing among countries. The road map identified eight priority areas for regional cooperation, the most important of which was the integration of the Goals in national development planning.

55. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development would participate in the regional conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, providing a regional perspective by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices. It would also support follow-up and review of regional progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and would provide capacity-building assistance to countries with special needs.

56. **Mr. Meatchi** (Togo), Director of Planning and Development, presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, said that many factors impacted poverty eradication, including changing demographics, climate change, the depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation. The Forum had examined a number of subtopics related to the implementation of the Goals, such as ways to guarantee consensus on sustainable development and prosperity. The integrated nature of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda called for integrated and inclusive approaches that were based on decisions made in various United Nations and African forums. It was therefore important for countries to develop road maps for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 that were in line with national plans.

57. Economic growth alone was a necessary but not sufficient condition for eradicating poverty. Achievement of the Goals would require a structural transformation based on economic diversification and accelerated industrialization. As official development assistance remained vital for the achievement of Goal 1 by 2030, it was important to strengthen existing aid programmes, especially for countries with special needs in Africa. The high-level political forum must pay attention to the problems of poverty in Africa faced by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

58. With respect to food security, the interaction among low productivity and income, weak purchasing power and the degradation of agricultural production in Africa had given rise to large-scale famines. Member

States were far from meeting their objectives on health care, such as those set out in the Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria in Africa. The Forum had also addressed gender equality and empowerment of girls and women, resilient infrastructure and the promotion of industrialization and innovation and the sustainable use of marine environments.

59. **Ms. Monnoyer-Smith** (France), Commissioner-General for Sustainable Development and Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Seas, presenting the main outcomes of the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2017, said that the Forum had been extremely well attended. Members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe were committed to the Goals; one third of the participants in the 2016 and 2017 voluntary national reviews had been from the region. In a peer learning segment, participants had had an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices. The Forum had enjoyed strong participation by civil society, and representatives from the private sector had reported that businesses were increasingly aware that they shared responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The private sector would also play an important role in mobilizing the necessary financial resources.

60. The regional Forum had stressed the need for intersectoral action and devoted much time to the links among various Goals and their impact on institutions and policymaking. Goals 3, 5 and 9 were considered especially critical. A round table had been held on adapting the Goals to local and regional situations; overall, the process of integrating the Goals into national laws and strategies seemed to be advanced in the region. Consultative processes had helped to adapt the Goals to national realities, and parliaments were increasingly involved in the implementation of the Goals.

61. Another round table had been dedicated to the importance of subregional cooperation for implementation of the Goals. Such cooperation could contribute to the implementation of the Goals in areas such as commercial investment, infrastructure, management of natural resources, migration, energy, agriculture and health, and could take the form of informal dialogues, formal intergovernmental organizations and legally binding instruments. It could also address cross-border issues such as marine pollution off shared coastlines, for example, the Saint-Raphaël-Monaco-Genoa (RAMOGE) Agreement between France, Italy and Monaco.

62. A third round table had addressed the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, which required access to relevant and reliable disaggregated data. Dialogue between decision-makers and statisticians was essential, and national statistical bureaux were important for coordinating data. The United Nations system could play a role in fostering cooperation among various actors and in building national statistics capacity.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.